

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NARCOTICS AS THEME FOR USIS PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 062333

1. PRESS: USIS FREQUENTLY ISSUES PHOTO STORIES AND PRESS RELEASES ON THAI-US COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EFFORTS. FOR EXAMPLE, USIS COVERED THE APRIL 1977 US EAST ASIA REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE HELD IN BANGKOK AND PRODUCED TRANSCRIPTS, PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTOS ON ADDRESSES BY SENIOR-LEVEL AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF, MATHEO FALCO, DR PETER BOURNE AND OTHERS. TRANSCRIPTS, PHOTOS AND PRESS RELEASES ON POST-CONFERENCE NEWS BRIEFINGS AND SUBSEQUENT VISITS BY MS FALCO AND CONGRESSMAN WOLFF WERE ALSO ISSUED. OTHER RECENT EVENTS COVERED BY USIS MATERIALS INCLUDED FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANIN DRAIVIXIEN'S AUGUST 1977 NARCOTICS BURNING, ATTENDED BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS; AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ADDRESS ON THE NARCOTICS SITUATION BY DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR DANIEL ADDARIO; AND AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE'S MARCH 3 SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT FOR US ASSISTANCE TO A THAI ADDICT TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM. USIS ROUTINELY
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PROVIDES THAI MEDIA AND OTHER APPROPRIATE RECIPIENTS WITH WIRELESS FILE SUMMARIES AND TEXTS OF COMMENTS BY US OFFICIALS ON NARCOTICS MATTERS.

2. PUBLICATIONS: SERIPHARB, THE THAI-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HORIZONS USA, CARRIES MATERIAL ON NARCOTICS. MOST RECENTLY, THE LOCALLY-PREPARED CENTER SECTION OF THE CURRENT ISSUE CARRIES A

STAFF-WRITTEN ARTICLE, "DRUG SUPPRESSION IN THAILAND."

3. COOPERATION WITH THAI ORGANIZATIONS: THROUGH DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S ACTIVE ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN, POST IDENTIFIED FRUITFUL AREAS OF US SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING LONG-TERM LOAN OF AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT FOR ITS TRAINING AND OUT-REACH EFFORT AND THE PROVISION OF S/NM FUNDS FOR PRINTING OF SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND BOOKMAKERS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN CARRYING ANTI-DRUG ABUSE MESSAGE. POST CURRENTLY EXPLORING OTHER MEANS OF SUPPORT FOR THIS IMPRESSIVE THAI INITIATIVE.

4. RADIO: POST-PRODUCED THAI-LANGUAGE NEWS AND COMMENTARY PROGRAMS, REBROADCAST BY THAI RADIO STATIONS, REGULARLY FEATURE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION DEVELOPMENTS IN THAILAND AND ELSEWHERE. FOR FOUR YEARS, USIS HAS PRODUCED A WEEKLY DRAMA SERIES BASED ON ACTUAL NARCOTICS CASES IN THAILAND. THIS HIGHLY POPULAR SERIES IS CARRIED ON MORE THAN 50 LOCAL STATIONS.

5. TELEVISION: SINCE 1976, FIVE ISSUES OF THE MONTHLY USIS 16MM TELEVISION SERIES, "THAILAND IN PROGRESS," HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO NARCOTICS PROBLEMS. THE LATEST OF THESE, PRODUCED FOR PRIME-TIME PLACEMENT, WAS IN DECEMBER, 1977. USIS ALSO MAKES FILMS OF THIS SERIES AVAILABLE FOR INTERESTED BORROWERS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM.

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6. MOTION PICTURES: USIS HAS PRODUCED THAI-LANGUAGE SOUND TRACKS FOR TWO UN FILMS, THE SOURCE AND THE CONNECTION (BOTH IN 1974) AND ONE USIA FILM, THE TRIP (IN 1977). THAI VERSIONS OF THESE FILMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL BORROWERS, AND NEW PRINTS OF THE SOURCE HAVE JUST BEEN ORDERED. THE POST IS CURRENTLY PRODUCING A NEW 16MM FILM FOCUSING ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN LIMITING DRUG

SUPPLIES AND ON US-ASSISTED REHABILITATION PROJECTS. THIS FILM, LIKE THOSE ABOVE, WILL BE PROGRAMMED ON THAI TV AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGH OUR LOAN PROGRAM.

7. SPECIAL BNC PROGRAMS: AS PART OF ITS REGULAR SERIES, THE BNC PRESENTED FOUR 1977 PROGRAMS ON NARCOTICS PROBLEMS: "ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE: A SOCIAL CRISIS" (FEBRUARY), "ROLE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE WORKER IN REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS" (MAY), "PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUTH IN THAILAND" (NOVEMBER). ALL PRESENTATIONS WERE PANEL DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTICIPATION BY QUALIFIED LOCAL EXPERTS, AND COVERED BY LOCAL PRESS. VIDEO TAPES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED FROM SOME OF THESE AND PROVIDED TO THE NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD AND NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER FOR USE IN TRAINING PROGRAMS.

8. EXHIBITS: UNTIL LAST YEAR, POST-PRODUCED EXHIBITS MATERIALS ON DRUG ABUSE FOR LOCAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS. THESE GROUPS NOW CAPABLE OF PRODUCING THEIR OW EXHIBITS, AND USIS HAS REDUCED ITS ROLE IN THIS REGARD. POST DOES PLAN MAJOR LOCALLY-PRODUCED EXHIBIT ON NARCOTICS THEME IN EARLY FY-79, TO BE COMBINED WITH SERIES OF PUBLIC LECTURES THIS SUBJECT.
WHITEHOUSE

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